

*S. O. 31*

learn and find out about the problems of hunger in the world.

Hunger need not exist. Children should not be prevented from academic success because of malnutrition, and senior citizens who made our success in the world possible should not have to live in poverty today.

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**SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM**

**Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring you a success story, one in which the federal government is playing a major role.

In November 1988, through Jobs Innovations, a part of the Labour Force Development Strategy, a pilot project in Simcoe Centre was funded to assist a Skills Training Program in high schools and colleges to meet the demand for more skilled workers.

A partnership was formed between industry, business, educators, government and the community. They deserve a round of applause for their effort and dedication to this cause. From such a small beginning, we now have 55 secondary schools from 14 school boards and nine colleges, a total membership of 1,400.

I had the honour of participating in their awards night, March 27. Winners will compete in skills Olympics in Hamilton on April 21. Winners from this round will go on to Tulsa, Oklahoma for international competition. I strongly support their continued efforts and say, well done.

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**WOMEN'S PROGRAM**

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, last month's budget may well spell a disaster for countless women in Canada. The fact that \$1.6 million has been slashed from the women's programs of the Secretary of State means the end of many centres throughout Canada.

One of the centres is the Women's Resource Centre in Antigonish, which has long been a refuge and a strength for women in northeastern Nova Scotia. The Women's Resource Centre provides referral services, interim counselling, educational materials and programs for women who are otherwise often isolated and abused.

The centre serves rural women and women in small towns such as Canso, where the crisis in the fishery will add to the family stresses which many women in rural areas already face.

The centre lost \$43,000 in federal support through the Secretary of State with the last budget, a meagre sum which would have helped contribute to a valuable service in my constituency.

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[Translation]

**COMMONWEALTH LAW CONFERENCE**

**Mrs. Monique Tardif (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, Anne Caron, Marie-France Chabot, Danielle Pelletier and Claudia Prémont, four law students at Laval University in Quebec City, will represent Canada at the moot court competition of the Commonwealth Law Conference in New Zealand from April 16 to 20.

These students qualified by winning the Gale Cup in Toronto in 1989.

The financial support given by the Government of Canada, the Government of Quebec and the Laval Alumni Association for this important event is a tribute to the excellence shown by these students and their professors.

I am sure that, thanks to our team of francophone students pleading in the language of Shakespeare, the Commonwealth countries participating in this international competition will see that Canada's legal system is bilingual and includes both civil law and common law.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to wish them *bon voyage* and good luck with their case.

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[English]

**FRUIT INDUSTRY**

**Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, the fruit industry in British Columbia's Okanagan valley is in serious trouble.

A recent royal commission into the B.C. fruit industry found that the \$675 million industry is on the verge of collapse. In the Okanagan Valley alone, the industry is